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GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.

Consul-General Mason reports, May 18, as follows:

Plague.

Turkey.—Referring to the last report of this series it is now learned that out of 22 cases of suspected plague in the village of Zobeir (Vilayet Bassora) registered on the 27th of April 16 ended in death. The disease is supposed to have been introduced from Persia.

According to a telegraphic report dated May 5, 2 cases of plague have occurred in Bahrein, on the Persian Gulf.

Egypt.—According to a communication dated April 29 a case of plague has occurred in the village of Sakram (province of Minieh).

The young Greek who was reported to be suffering with plague at Port Said in the beginning of May is supposed to have contracted the infection from plague rats in the warehouse where he slept.

British India.—During the week ended April 18 there were registered in the Bombay Presidency 6,780 cases of plague (5,318 deaths), of which 1,469 cases (1,331 deaths) occurred in the city of Bombay and 190 cases (176 deaths) in the town and port of Karachi.

The port of Berawal, in the State of Kathiawar (Bombay Presidency), has, according to a notice dated April 13, been declared infected with plague. During the week ended April 18 there occurred at that place 145 cases of plague (with 79 deaths).

Hongkong.—During the month of March there occurred in Hongkong 92 cases of plague (with 86 deaths), all the persons attacked being Chinese with the exception of 1 Indian cooly.

British South Africa.—In Natal, up to the 28th of March, 142 cases of plague had been registered; of these 118 cases (and 79 deaths) occurred in Durban and Maritzburg.

Queensland.—On the 23d of March 1 fresh case of plague was registered at Brisbane. On March 28 there were 5 plague patients in the hospital at that place.

West Australia.—According to a communication dated March 31 a case of plague occurred on board the ship *Sultan*, arrived from Singapore.

Plague and cholera.

British India.—In Calcutta during the two weeks from March 29 to April 11, 1,779 persons died of plague and 206 persons died of cholera.

Death rate of Berlin.

The death rate of Berlin for the week ended May 2 was lower than in the three foregoing weeks. It amounted, calculated upon the year, to 15 per thousand of the population, as compared with 15.8 in the previous week, and was thus lower than for the corresponding week of last year, in which the recorded rate was 15.2 per thousand. Of the various large German towns only Cassel, Crefeld, Aachen, Dusseldorf, Hanover, Magdeburg, Charlottenburg (with 13.8), and Schöneberg (12.9) showed somewhat more favorable figures than Berlin, but the

death rate of the following cities was considerably higher than that of Berlin, viz: Leipzig, Hamburg, Cologne, Munich, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Halle, Nuremberg, Breslau, and Königsberg, as well as London, Paris, and Vienna. The rate of mortality among children in the first year of life was, however, higher than in the previous four weeks, so that the decrease in the number of deaths was confined exclusively to the higher age classes. The death rate among infants amounted to 3.9 per year and mille, being only half of that of Stuttgart, Nuremberg, and Posen. Acute intestinal diseases were of more frequent occurrence and caused 44 deaths (in the foregoing week 25). On the other hand, acute diseases of the respiratory organs were less frequent, 48 cases ending in death. The number of deaths from phthisis pulmonalis, 73, also shows a decrease. Further, there were registered 3 deaths from influenza and 47 deaths from cancer. Diphtheria caused 2 and scarlet fever 10 deaths. Four persons died of measles and 14 persons died by violence.

The conflict with tuberculosis.

The annual meeting of the German central committee for the erection of sanatoria for consumptives was held today in the main hall of the Reichstag building. To judge from the attendance at the meeting, the movement continues to command a large share of public interest. The highest Government authorities had sent representatives to the conference.

The president, Count Posadowsky, opened the proceedings with a short address, in which he pointed out the duties which the State and the local governments have to perform in connection with the fight against tuberculosis. He emphasized the fact that the inferior dwelling accommodation for the poorer classes was one of the principal causes of the spread of the scourge.

Professor Pannwitz, the secretary-general of the committee, presented his report, which showed that the action of the central committee had taken root in all parts of the Empire. There are now more than 1,300 members of the committee, among them being 6 ministries, 270 municipalities, 55 associations, 24 insurance institutions, 53 sanatoria, 159 administrative officers, 83 physicians, 344 merchants, 89 business firms, and 4 chambers of commerce.

Professor von Leyden read a paper entitled "The efficacy of the sanatoria for consumptives," in which he alluded to the decrease in the mortality from tuberculosis in Germany since the establishment of the committee. He said that the permanent results of the cure in the sanatoria could not yet be accurately gauged, owing to the brief period of the treatment. He alluded to the way in which the work of the committee is supplemented by the polyclinics, special wards in the hospitals, refuges for severe cases, convalescent homes, children's sanatoria, etc.

The president of the imperial insurance office furnished some remarkable statistics, tending to show that, in spite of the systematic fight which is being carried on against tuberculosis in Germany, more than half of the male workers who avail themselves of the facilities of the invalid insurance institutions suffer with tuberculosis.